

February 20, 2023

Dear Distinguished Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee,

I strongly urge you to oppose **H.B. 5653**. This bill seems punitive, unproductive, and unfair to the firearms owners and firearms business owners of this state. The passing of this bill could have negative unintended consequences.

By placing the excise sale on the purchase by retailers, you create a further strain on the ability by retailers to remain competitive compared to online purchasing, other retailers in state, and out of state shops. Retailers will have to decide how much of this tax to pass to the consumer.

The mere addition of a tax of this magnitude to something as controversial as firearms is really a slap in the face to firearm owners in CT. Many firearm owners in CT are very into the shooting sports and go to the range every week with friends and family to shoot skeet, trap, or other competitions. This is not an inexpensive sport and the ones who can go out of state will do so to purchase ammo without the excise tax.

There are many people getting their permit to carry here in CT. Any CT residents who are purchasing a firearm, whether it be for sport or self defense, are spending a lot of money (usually in CT) on the permit, firearm, accessories, training, and ammunition to practice. Residents with a lower income need to make sacrifices while still meeting their goal of a firearm for self defense. Personally, I would rather have the permit holder have as much practice as possible. If passed on to the consumer, an ammo tax will have a direct, measurable, and negative effect on how much somebody will be able to train. If a permit holder has limited funds to spend on ammunition (which is already expensive), they will have less training. Do you want the residents carrying firearms everyday to be less proficient or more proficient?

Additionally, if this bill was meant, in any way, to create a barrier for criminals to purchase ammo, it will not. The insignificant amount (I assume) of ammo that a drug dealer or criminal needs is not enough to create a financial burden with this tax. If this bill is supposed to be a "sin tax" and punish Connecticut residents that shoot firearms, it will do it well.

There is no upside to this bill, it is simply a bad bill. I hope that you will consider these points and oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

Kyle Gless

Waterford